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**ABELE RAIDS RESERVES IN ATTEMPTED BUDGET BAIL-OUT**  
**Uses About \$20 Million to Cover Pension Error**  
**And \$4 Million for Bucks Arena**

Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele is engaging in “unsustainable spending” in his \$1.37 billion 2016 Recommended Budget, using surplus funds and budget gimmicks to cover up this year’s \$4 million payment toward the Bucks arena (that he unilaterally negotiated), and roughly \$20 million for a pension error (that took place under his watch), Milwaukee County Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., said today.

Abele’s proposal would pay for those two ongoing expenses mainly using one-time funding from the County’s operating surplus.

“The County Executive has unilaterally committed taxpayers to pay \$80 million over the next 20 years for the Bucks arena,” Lipscomb said. “Using part of the surplus to cover this year’s \$4 million payment is fiscally reckless. What happens in the following years? Where will we get \$4 million a year for the next 19 years? The deal he cut in Madison to fund the arena leads either to a 1.4 percent tax increase or cuts in services.

“Meanwhile, he is also using surplus funds to pay for a pension error of about \$20 million that took place under his administration’s watch. He is engaging in unsustainable budgeting to cover a pension error his administration should have known about. We can’t assume massive surpluses in future years. His budget reflects wishful thinking in the future that simply is not realistic.”

Lipscomb said the County Board’s Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee will “take a hard look” at Abele’s budget during open public hearings.

The review by the committee begins today with an overview presented by the Comptroller’s Research Division.

“Raiding the surplus is not a sustainable budget strategy,” Lipscomb said. “He is relying on one-time funds and avoiding a long-term solution, which only makes for more difficult budgets in the future.”

The Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee will hold a public listening session on the proposed budget beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, October 12 at the Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee.

The County Board’s annual public hearing will take place beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 2 at the Mitchell Park Conservatory (the Domes), 524 S. Layton Blvd.

The Board will consider adoption of the budget on November 9.

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